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## Claims

Connecting element for insertion into the ends of at least two hollow sections
of different cross-section, in particular middle nodes for an instrument panel
transverse beam in automobile manufacture,

characterised in that,

- a push-fit body (22, 22<sub>a</sub> to 22<sub>f</sub>) is shape-formed by way of extrusion on a frame (30, 30<sub>a</sub>) with side walls (32) extending in the direction x of insertion, whereby the push-fit body is of smaller cross-section than the frame and contains lengths of the frame walls.
- 2. Connecting element according to claim 1, characterised in that the frame (30, 30<sub>a</sub>) surrounds the push-fit body (22, 22<sub>a</sub> to 22<sub>f</sub>).
  - 3. Connecting element according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the push-fit body ((22,  $22_a$  to  $22_f$ ) forms a corner (31) of the frame (30,  $30_a$ ).
- 20 4. Connecting element according to one of the claims 1 to 3, characterised in that a frame bracket (40) is formed onto the frame (30, 30<sub>a</sub>) on the outside of one side wall (32<sub>f</sub>).
- 5. Connecting element according to claim 4, characterised in that the frame bracket arms (42) on the frame (30, 30<sub>a</sub>) are aligned with parallel side walls of the frame.
- 6. Connecting element according to one of the claims 1 to 5, characterised in that a sleeve (38) for a bolt is provided, in particular integrally shape-formed, at two opposite lying corners (31<sub>a</sub> and 41) within the frame (30, 30<sub>a</sub>) or in the frame bracket (40).
  - 7. Connecting element according to one of the claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the push-fit body (22, 22a, 22<sub>d</sub>) projects out of one side of the frame (30, 30<sub>a</sub>) in the direction of insertion (x).

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- 8. Connecting element according to one of the claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the frame (30, 30<sub>a</sub>) projects on one side in the direction of insertion beyond a plane (E) defined by an outer edge (46) of the frame bracket (40).
- 5 9. Connecting element according to claim 8, characterised in that on the other side of the frame bracket (40) the push-fit body (22<sub>d</sub>) projects beyond a plane (E) defined by its other outer edge (46).
- 10. Connecting element according to at least one of the above claims, characterised by way of at least one of the features revealed in the drawing and/or description.
  - 11. Connecting element according to at least one of the above claims, characterised by way of a combination of at least two of the features revealed in the drawing and/or description.